Sardar Sarovar Project Resettlement & Rehabilitation Oversight Group (OSG) headed by Shri V.K. Shunglu to verify the status of rehabilitation in Madhya Pradesh of the families affected by raising the height of the dam from EL 110.64 m to EL 121.92 m as per the approved design.

(c) and (d) The OSG has investigated the matter and submitted its report as per the terms of reference to the Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 3rd July, 2006. The Hon'ble Minister (WR) submitted the Report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd July, 2006. The decision taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th July, 2006 on the Report of OSG was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with the Report of the OSG on 10th July, 2006, as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 8th May, 2006 in the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 328 of 2002.

The Supreme Court of India heard the matter on 10th July, 2006. The Court directed the parties to file their response to the Report within three weeks and replies thereto within three weeks thereafter. The case has been listed for September 2006. Meanwhile, directions have been issued to Government of Madhya Pradesh to expedite the works on the Resettlement and Rehabilitation sites and to take measures as directed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Achankovil Vaippar Link Project

1637. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divert water from Pamba and Achankovil rivers of Kerala to the Vaippar basin of Tamil Nadu under Achankovil Vaippar Link Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the above proposal;

(c) if so, whether there are many representations from Competent Authority of Kerala during the year 2003 and 2006 for dropping above proposal; and

(d) if so, the present status of the above representations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of the National Perspective plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) studied a link proposal for diversion of 634 Million Cubic Metre (mm^3) from out of the combined surpluses (3127mm^3) of Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to Vaippar basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigating 91400 ha of drought prone area. Besides, the link proposal envisages a pumped storage scheme to generate about 500 MW of power during peak hours for the benefit of Kerala. The feasibility report of the link project was completed by NWDA in 1995.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has forwarded a copy of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link Project completely. The Chief Minister of Kerala in July, 2006 also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister in which he has iterated the contents of the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Kerala of August, 2003. The Ministry of Water Resources has taken note of the Resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and has decided not to treat Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link as a priority link.

Rain water harvesting

1638. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to adopt a multi prolonged strategy for achieving maximum coverage of rain water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Ground Water Board has identified 4.5 lakh sq. km. suitable for artificial recharge of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to adopt a multi prolonged strategy for achieving maximum coverage of rain water